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Transforming Our Libraries: 12 Stories About Controlled Digital Lending

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Interviews with:

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This booklet is a compilation of blog posts originally appearing on blog.archive.org highlighting how libraries and publishers are addressing the challenges of providing digital access to materials in their print collections.

Using controlled digital lending (CDL), libraries and publishers have a new model for making their printed works available in digital form in ways that protect in-copyright materials and intellectual property. The following interviews feature examples of how libraries, publishers, and authors are utilizing controlled digital lending to reach their patrons and readers, and the impact that controlled digital lending is having on their mission-driven work.

Libraries are encouraged to learn more about controlled digital lending and join Open Libraries.

More at: controldigitalending.org

1

Helping Libraries Transform their Physical Collections

The Internet Archive believes passionately that access to knowledge is a fundamental human right. Knowledge makes us stronger and more resilient; it provides pathways to education and the means to secure a job. But for many learners, distance, time, cost or disability pose daunting barriers to the information in physical books.



Brewster Kahle, Digital Librarian

“To provide universal access to all knowledge, we need digital versions of books,” said Internet Archive founder Brewster Kahle. “People will learn from what they get ahold of and we need high quality information – the best – accessible to everyone.”

Digitizing books has been at the core of Internet Archive’s work for years. Since 2004, Internet Archive has partnered with more than 500 libraries to digitize and make

accessible more than 3 million books, most of which are in the public domain and therefore easily published online without restrictions for use or reuse. To address the challenge of providing access to materials that are still in copyright, in 2011 Internet Archive began to pilot a service with Boston Public Library, the nation’s oldest and first municipally funded library, to digitize and lend in-copyright books. Over the past eight years, the effort has expanded into the Open Libraries program, which now offers more than 1 million modern digitized books that can be checked out, one at a time, by readers all over the world for free. More than two dozen libraries – large and small, public and academic – are now partnering with the Archive to provide access to these materials at no additional cost to their patrons. It is a collaborative effort that is harnessing the creativity of the library community.

How controlled digital lending works

Lending digitized versions of in-copyright books to online users is supported by copyright scholars, who coined the term controlled digital lending (CDL) in 2017 and described the legal framework in a Position Statement and supporting White Paper. With controlled digital lending, libraries can identify which of the books in their collection Internet Archive has already digitized, and where there’s a match, libraries can lend a digital copy instead of the physical copy on their shelves. The “control” in CDL comes via digital rights management software and protected file access which ensures that in-copyright

material can’t be redistributed; it is available to one user at a time, just like a printed book.

Because the access model is digital and online, CDL makes it possible for rural libraries to reach patrons with transportation issues who were previously unable to make it into a branch. CDL allows patrons to read fragile and rare books that can’t circulate because of their value or condition. It is bringing new life to old titles that have been tucked away in storage or long out of print with no digital edition. And, it is transforming the information ecosystem and reigniting enthusiasm for libraries as the trusted place for knowledge in our current era of disinformation.

“If we don’t do this, some of the problems we are seeing with fake news will only continue,” Kahle said. “If there is no acceptable record, then history can just be rewritten with a blog post.”

Impact and future direction

Because the majority of the published works of the 20th century are not available online, Internet Archive is prioritizing digitizing materials from the 20th century that are highly referenced on Wikipedia, included in course syllabi, and widely held in libraries. If the internet is the go-to place for information, then there needs to be a wide range of materials available. The goal is to provide access to a world-class library to all digital learners around the globe, enabling individuals and communities to raise and empower an educated citizenry. Having historical books digitized, for example those that chronicle the Civil Rights movement or World War II history, gives readers context for contemporary issues in our global society.

Adds Kahle: “Let’s bring back the breadth of the public library. Let’s bring back the wonder of being able to go into a library and have access to materials and new and different tools...I want to deliver on the promise of a better library system for our kids.”

2

Protecting Books From Harm

Michelle Wu began working at the University of Houston Law Library in the wake of flooding from Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. Some parts of the city had 14 feet of water and the library took in at least 8 feet. Law books on the lower level were underwater and the lingering humidity produced mold that destroyed much of the remaining collection.

“I wanted to create a model that would allow libraries to be able to preserve collections while respecting copyright in a world where natural disasters are a growing threat,” said Wu,

3

MIT Press Embraces New Access Models to Fulfill Mission

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Press was the first university press to sign an agreement with Internet Archive to scan older print books for which it had no digital copies to make them available via controlled digital lending (CDL).

“These are works that are available through [CDL], but where the list of what’s available is curated by us rather than by libraries,” said Amy Brand, director of the MIT Press. “We are a mission-driven publisher and we have been very proactive in the open access space for a long time. It’s been a top priority to me to digitize everything I could and make as many of our scholarly monographs open as possible.”



Amy Brand

That said, there are concerns that the digitize-and-lend model will hurt book sales and presses’ own efforts to make digital books available to libraries. The ebooks of concern are newer titles and trade books, noted Brand, while the works that MIT Press is contributing to the CDL program are typically older backlist titles that were never digitized and that the Press is not currently selling, including works that are entirely out of print.

“We also give the author an opt-out courtesy notice. We think they should be comfortable with the works being made openly available in this way,” Brand said, noting that MIT Press’s approach is always author driven.

After MIT Press announced its relationship with Internet Archive, the Press received positive news coverage and has been actively helping involve other university presses. About a dozen others, including Cornell University Press and the University of Colorado Press, have come on board with digitizing titles.

“I would like to see scholarly work that has not previously been digitized made available,” Brand said. “I believe strongly that scientific and scholarly knowledge should be shared as broadly as possible. I think university presses have a big role to play. The university press community is much more likely to be supportive of an approach to CDL that includes, rather than excludes, publisher curation of works that libraries digitize and lend, in order to protect the ability of mission-driven presses to sustain themselves and keep publishing high-quality scholarship.”



Photo: Jon Schultz, Director, University of Houston Law Library

now associate dean for library services and professor of law at the Georgetown Law Library in Washington, D.C. “Digitizing a collection and storing it under existing standards ensures that there is always a backed-up copy somewhere. During and after any disaster, the user would never lose access and the government would not have to reinvest to rebuild collections.” Controlled digital lending (CDL) is a model that achieves these purposes

For libraries with fewer resources, CDL can also be a tool to maximize public dollars and improve access. Once a library determines that its community no longer has a need for a



Michelle Wu

certain CDL book (or as many copies as owned), the extra copies can be shared with libraries that never had access and would never have access without collaborative efforts.

“It’s a way of wealth sharing without much cost to communities,” Wu said. “Storage, digitization, and system costs would have already been budgeted by the lending library, CDL requires

no shipping costs to be paid by either party, and the lending library’s community won’t feel the loss of copies as local need has decreased.”

“It’s a way to build a more robust collection for all of us to use. It helps the community and society at large in the long term,” said Wu. “That’s not something any of us can do alone. The only way we will do it is if we do it together.”



*“Let’s bring back the breadth of the public library.
Let’s bring back the wonder of being able to go
into a library and have access to materials and
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promise of a better library system for our kids.”*

Brewster Kahle, Digital Librarian

4

Leadership in Digital Lending

By continuing to find new opportunities to make older books, often lost or just inaccessible to the public, available online, Boston Public Library (BPL) is sparking new enthusiasm among the reading public.

“It’s like a giant treasure hunt for book lovers that just keeps renewing itself,” said BPL President David Leonard.

As one of the nation’s oldest and first municipally funded public libraries in the United States, BPL holds an estimated 23 million items in its collection. It is one of the three largest libraries in the country along with the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library.



David Leonard

“Libraries that are thriving the most are the ones that are reinventing themselves, responding to new demand and new modes of access, simultaneously keeping one foot in traditional services and engaging with the public in new ways,” said Leonard, “and that goes for our physical spaces and for our collections.”

BPL has long been a leader in the digitization of materials and was the first library to partner with Internet Archive to pilot access via Controlled Digital Lending (CDL) services in 2011.

The CDL pilot began in Boston as a way of both preserving and giving access to family genealogies and historical cookbooks, and materials that were stored deep in the stacks and rarely circulated. Following the success of the pilot, BPL has moved to its next pilot, now offering ‘one patron, one copy at-a-time’ access to scanned copies of certain older printed books from the 50,000 historic children’s books in the Alice Jordan Collection, which is housed in closed stacks and unavailable to the public in physical form. A subset of these works are now available at Internet Archive via CDL, making them available to patrons for the first time, limited to where the BPL’s catalog overlaps with the Internet Archives’ already scanned materials.

BPL also has a strong relationship with Boston-based publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, which has donated a physical copy of every book it has produced since the late 1800s to the Library. While nearly 90 percent of those titles are not in print today, the publisher has agreed to let the library make available a scanned copy of each item in the historical archive through the CDL program, reactivating the collection.

With so many lost titles becoming available again, it has become easier for patrons to discover and access an even broader array of books – in some cases, not only giving renewed exposure to a title that has been out of print, but also generating new revenue

streams for publishers. The BPL cites at least one example from its early pilot where an author went ahead with a second printing of a book which had been out of print and was rediscovered through the CDL program.

“We hope as more institutions understand the value, we will be able to bring more content back,” Leonard said. “As well as delivering on our mission of increased public access, this program has the effect of being a real marketing channel for both authors and publishers, something libraries have long been a champion for. It provides a particularly useful channel for people to demonstrate their interest in older works, and can revive their commercial value.”

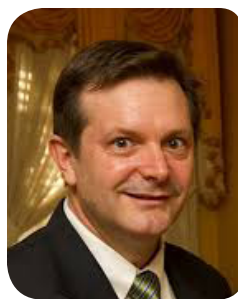
5

Giving New Life to Out-of-Print Books

Dean Bartoli Smith’s book of poetry about growing up in Baltimore came out in 2000. *American Boy* was long past its sales life until it was resurrected by being digitized by the Internet Archive and made available through controlled digital lending (CDL).

“It’s uniquely personal to me because some of the poems deal with my parents’ divorce at the age of seven,” says Smith of the 68-page collection of poems. “My mother became a family law

attorney and would give my book to clients who were dealing with custody situations. She passed away in January and as a tribute to her, I wanted there to be free access to that book.



Dean Bartoli Smith

The poems reflect Smith’s journey to adulthood and issues of the day, such as Vietnam and the plight of Native Americans. It is geared for readers 10 and up. Initially, about 1,000 copies were

printed by Washington Writers Publishing House and now the book is available by print on demand.

“I think there is a big need to be able to provide access to these books that are out of print,” said Smith, who is director of the Duke University Press and a 1989 graduate of the Masters of Fine Arts program at Columbia University, “I didn’t go about writing as a way to make a living. Poets are writing poetry to make sense of the world and to share. If someone can benefit from something that I’ve written, then all the more power.”

Smith also wrote *Never Easy, Never Pretty: A Fan, A City, A Championship Season*, a nonfiction trade book about the Baltimore Ravens 2012 Super Bowl season published by Temple University Press in 2013. Each chapter starts with a line of poetry about football from an established poet. While still in print, Smith said he may eventually explore having that title digitized by Internet Archive.



“We hope as more institutions understand the value, we will be able to bring more content back. As well as delivering on our mission of increased public access, this program has the effect of being a real marketing channel for both authors and publishers.”

David Leonard, Boston Public Library

6

Opening Up Digital Access to Historic Curriculum Materials

Anyone interested in learning about what was taught in Alberta schools in the past century used to go to the basement of the H. T. Coumts Education and Kinesiology and Physical Education Library at the University of Alberta. There, users would ask to be let into a locked room to view the historical curriculum collection.

Now, many of the historic textbooks are online and available through controlled digital lending (CDL). It's making for a new chapter in educational research at the urban university, which has close to 40,000 students.

"It's important for me to trace ideas in curriculum over time," said Cathryn van Kessel, Assistant Professor of Education who is studying feminist issues in curriculum documents and textbooks. "The digitized collection allows researchers to shave countless hours off of our data collection. Being able to access electronic copies with searchable text is invaluable."



Kim Frail

CDL is also useful for the growing number of students taking online classes at the university and researchers who live outside of Edmonton or in other provinces, said Kim Frail, Public Services Librarian at the H.T. Coumts Library on campus.

The University of Alberta Libraries is Canada's second-largest research library containing more than 5.2 million titles, 7.5 million volumes, 1.3 million ebooks and 1,100 databases. They were also the first to adopt CDL in Canada.

The education library received a bequest from the estate of Marie Wiedrick, wife of a former faculty member, Laurence Wiedrick, that has been used to fund the digitization project. With the help of Internet Archive, which set up a scanning facility on campus, the university is more than halfway through digitizing approximately 6000 books that were used in Alberta schools from 1885 to 1985.

Many of the books in the Wiedrick Collection are fragile and were deteriorating as they were being physically checked out and used. CDL provides an alternative way of accessing the book that allows the original to be preserved.

"We think it's a great legacy for the [Wiedrick] family because it allows broader access to the collection," said Frail, who works with education researchers at the library. Because of its unique collection, the library functions as a quasi-academic and public library used by the broader community.

In one education course, students examine the representation of Indigenous people over time in historical textbooks. In graduate-level courses that focus on the history of curriculum, students select a certain 10-year period to study how the teaching of certain subjects has changed. Having digital content makes it easier for students to access the materials, especially with regards to curriculum documents or "Programs of Study" from the early 1900s when all the subjects were contained in one book, noted Frail.

Recently, an Alberta researcher received a large grant to work in collaboration with scholars at 17 universities around Canada to examine how history has been taught in the schools over time. Online access to the Wiedrick Collection means that researchers can tap into textbooks in Alberta from any location.

"As we move forward in education, it's interesting to know where there were gaps – what things were and weren't being taught," said Frail.

It's a particularly useful resource, as well, since librarians have compiled a bibliography that traces what books were used when and for what subject, Frail added. Digitizing the older works enables researchers to conveniently search topics electronically with key words.

"We are hearing great feedback," said Frail. "It has opened up a whole new realm of research and enabled comparisons over time on a different scale."

7

Unlocking Marooned Assets Through Digitization

Being able to lend an array of materials is fundamental to what public libraries do and controlled digital lending (CDL) is another tool for libraries to fulfill that mission, according to John Chrastka, executive director of EveryLibrary, a national organization dedicated to building voter support for libraries.



John Chrastka

"There are numerous marooned assets within library collections. From 1924 to the early 2000s, there is content that is relevant to certain lines of inquiries or communities, yet it is trapped on paper," said Chrastka, an early endorser of CDL. "Liberating it into an environment where it could be shared to one user at a time allows those marooned assets to be put

back to work. So much public money has been spent over the years acquiring material that is now essentially isolated and cut off from actual use."

"CDL is a way to ensure that books purchased with public dollars are used in the way they were intended to further education, enjoyment and entertainment," said Chrastka.



“We are a mission-driven publisher and we have been very proactive in the open access space for a long time. It’s been a top priority to me to digitize everything I could and make as many of our scholarly monographs open as possible.”

Amy Brand, MIT Press

Technology has advanced in a way that can practically expand access and renew productivity of older titles to better serve the public. It moves the issue of access beyond location.

EveryLibrary is promoting the value of CDL on many fronts, including how it can open up materials to special populations. For example, there is a collection of oral histories from early Czech immigrants to the United States in a suburban Chicago library. It used to be that many descendants lived nearby and could walk to the library to look up those materials, but they have since moved. While the materials are physically stuck in Illinois, families and scholars elsewhere may be interested if only they had digital access, noted Chrastka.

CDL can also unlock commercial historical documents from the 1920s to the dawn of the computer age. Hidden in the information announcements of businesses may be solutions to problems of today – products that could be useful in future research and development for new companies.

Added Chrastka: “[CDL] is not something that is aspirational. This is about access. It is a core competency of libraries they should be exercising.”

8 Closing the Access Gap in Rural Maryland

In southern Maryland, St. Mary’s County is 54 miles long and there are only three libraries.



Michael Blackwell

“We have people living at one end who might be 25 miles away from a branch,” said Michael Blackwell, Director of the St. Mary’s County Library that operates in the small communities of Leonardtown, Charlotte Hall and Lexington Park.

Yet, many of its rural and suburban residents do have cell phones and tablets. “People in this area are hungry for digital content. In surveys, they say there is not enough. Library digital use is growing, unlike library print use, which is very flat,” said Blackwell. “How to keep up with demand is a real challenge for us.”

That’s why Blackwell sees great promise in expanding the county’s digital offerings through controlled digital lending (CDL). CDL opens up access to rural patrons who may not otherwise be able to use the library because of transportation or other barriers. There are children whose parents work three jobs who need books for homework. There are shift workers who work during library hours. There are those for whom a physical trip to the library is simply not possible.

“I’m interested in CDL because a library the size of mine doesn’t have a lot of money,” Blackwell said. “By simply changing the format, we are getting the most out of the books we’ve already paid for. We are not trying to pick John Grisham’s pocket.”

Blackwell also notes that there are many works – including Pulitzer Prize winning books – that publishers do not make available to libraries in digital form. This is an issue that is beyond rural access, it’s about no one having access at all to books that publishers choose not to provide digitally. For example, James Michener’s “Tales of the South Pacific,” is not available to libraries in ebook form through the major vendors. It is of interest as a story but also for revealing attitudes about human relations at the time of World War II. If a library wanted to circulate in ebook form, CDL would be the only option. It is, of course, the source for the musical, “South Pacific.”

Currently, the St. Mary’s library has close to 300,000 titles, including nearly 30,000 digital holdings. The library’s budget is approximately \$3.8 million a year and the small funding increases usually go to salaries and health insurance, not leaving much for new acquisitions.

With high interest in digital content, CDL is being embraced in rural Maryland.

“We are working with Internet Archive on a pilot to launch CDL titles through the Library Simplified, or ‘SimplyE,’ app,” added Blackwell. “A state grant is allowing us to deploy the app. Our patrons will be able to get all our ebook content, CDL and vendor-licensed, in one place. We’ll add quality content we can’t get in any other way at no cost other than storing our relevant print copies, ultimately expanding our offerings by thousands of titles. Our book hungry patrons will be much more likely to find a great title they want while they wait for the best sellers we can license.”

9 Academic Authors Find Larger Audience



Robert Darnton

For Robert Darnton, the benefit of controlled digital lending (CDL) to academic authors is obvious: More people can read their work.

As the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and the University Librarian, Emeritus at Harvard University, Darnton has long been a champion of broadening access to information. He also sees the value of making materials more widely available when it comes to his own research outputs.

Darnton has made two of his books, which are both still in print, freely available online: *Mesmerism* and *The End of the*



“[CDL] has the potential to make a high-quality curated collection available for any student. It really is a democratization issue. CDL can be transformative for equal access to education in this country.”

Lisa Petrides, Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education

Enlightenment in France (Harvard University Press, 1968) and The Business of Enlightenment: A Publishing History of the Encyclopédie, 1775-1800 (Harvard University Press, 1979). Several other of his titles are available to borrow electronically through Internet Archive's Open Library.

Eventually, Darnton said he'd like all his titles to be digitized. "I feel it's in my best interest to reach as large a public audience as I possibly can," said Darnton. He believes the exposure online helps with the marketing of his books. Indeed, there was an increase in sales of the Mesmerism book once it was digitized.

Many academics don't rely on books for income and it's rare that royalties continue after a few years. "What authors want when that ceases is to reach readers. This is the best way to do it," said Darnton. "CDL is a good system and a way to really improve people's access to literature without harming anyone."

In higher education, resources can vary widely from one campus library to another. Even at Harvard, Darnton said it's not possible to make all books available — let alone small libraries with limited budgets. Libraries can benefit from interlibrary loans, and digital lending can provide even greater relief from isolation for institutions without the means of expanding their collections.

"CDL can make an enormous difference, even for such privileged environments as Harvard," said Darnton. "There is momentum behind CDL. It is not just the way to go, but the way things are going."

10 Everyone Deserves to Learn

The nation's K-12 school libraries are hurting. Although the student population is rising in many districts, the number of librarians and media specialists dropped by nearly 20 percent from 2000 to 2015. Budgets are being reduced and some schools are no longer able to afford their school librarians, or are simply closing their libraries altogether. The cuts are particularly deep in underserved communities.

Controlled digital lending, the digital equivalent of traditional library lending, holds the promise of broadening access to knowledge



Lisa Petrides

for public school libraries, according to Lisa Petrides, PhD, founder of the non-profit Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education. ISKME's focus is to provide research, tools and training to help democratize access to education through the practice of continuous learning and collaboration. Research has shown

that well-resourced libraries matter, she noted.

"When students don't have access to school libraries, it impacts learning outcomes. It's a dire situation in many districts across

the country," said Petrides. "Libraries and the librarians that serve them are intricately connected to pedagogy and curriculum, and are necessary to reinforce the basic tenets of learning, including problem-solving, curiosity, and exposure to new ways of thinking. The school library has been and continues to be a critical link for teaching and learning in our K-12 schools."

In partnership with the Internet Archive, Petrides has amassed a team of librarian partners to create the Universal School Library, a collection of digitized books that will serve as a lending library for those without access to a physical school library. A small grant has funded teams of school librarians working to curate 15,000 book titles. It's a labor-intensive process selecting fiction and non-fiction titles for the core collection, while ensuring diverse viewpoints and voices are represented and included. A beta version of the Universal School Library is now online at <https://archive.org/details/uslprototype>, and the project team will work with states, districts, and schools to use CDL to fill in where there are gaps. When the Universal School Library is officially launched in 2020, it will encompass all genres and reading levels, and across cultural, college, and career literacy.

"This has the potential to make an inclusive high-quality curated collection available for any student," Petrides said. "It really is a democratization issue. CDL can be transformative for equal access to education in this country."

11 Protecting Unique Canadiana Works

Technology is enabling libraries in Canada to promote diversity, safeguard historic documents, and expand access — all while helping to save the planet.

The Hamilton Public Library in the Canadian province of Ontario has nearly two dozen branches. Providing digital content to users in geographically remote areas is one of many reasons that the library has recently embraced controlled digital lending (CDL).

"It's such an environmentally friendly, cost effective way of making titles available," said Paul Takala, CEO/Chief Librarian of the library. "If we digitize it, somebody doesn't have to go to the library to get it and we don't have to ship books around. It just makes a lot of sense."

The library also has rare and fragile Canadiana content that is not available anywhere else or able to be physically loaned out. This includes history of the local area, land documents, first-hand accounts of settlers, a large collection of photographs and a unique collection of works published in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

"Now we have the technology to share so many stories from so many voices through this platform to anybody 24/7," said Lisa Weaver, Director of Collections & Program Development at the



“CDL helps us provide access to the broadest number of resources to the broadest number of Canadians. Having books in digital format also helps customers with print disabilities access the content.”

Lisa Weaver, Hamilton Public Library, Ontario

library. “The preservation of books that CDL allows us to do and access that CDL allows us to provide is invaluable.”

When Hamilton joined Open Libraries, it was able to identify 53,000 books in its physical holdings that Internet Archive had already digitized. Those books were added to Open Libraries to increase lending counts for those titles. For example, the library



Paul Takala

digitized three titles that cover unique pieces of Canadian history: “The Trail of the Black Helmut” by G. Elmore Reamon (1957), “The Art of Northwest Coast Indians” by Robert Bruce Inverarity (1950), and “The Clockmaker” by Thomas Haliburton (1958), the first internationally best-selling author of fiction from what is now Canada. With the assistance of Internet Archive, Hamilton will later this year accelerate its scanning of older titles and some of its unique Canadiana collection to share beyond the library walls.

Researchers and genealogists have been particularly interested in discovering the digitized material. The new format allows users to access resources when they wish, during their commute, wherever they are, or even when the library is not physically open. The program also helps students who want to read classics that are not in copyright and not widely available.

“CDL helps us provide access to the broadest number of resources to the broadest number of Canadians,” Weaver said. “Having books in digital format also helps customers with print disabilities access the content.”

As more libraries partner with Internet Archive to make their collections available via CDL, more will be giving back and adding to the shared collection. “Part of the mission of public libraries is to educate residents about the history and richness of their communities,” said Takala. “It’s about making more items available to our customers. The benefits are clear.”

12 Unlocking the Potential for Every High School to Have Access to a Prep School Library

When Phillips Academy was renovating its library, Michael Barker wanted to update more than the physical space. This was also an opportunity to bring the private preparatory high school up to speed digitally – and in the process, share its vast book collection with others.

Barker, Director of Academy Research, Information and Library Services, has embraced controlled digital lending (CDL) by digitizing the books it owns and lending out one secured digital version to one user at a time. In this case, the Andover, Massachusetts school owns 80,000 books.

“With the closure of so many high school libraries, this allows us to share the collection we’ve built up over 100 years with all other high schools,” Barker said. “I can’t think of any better way the library could contribute its private resources for a public purpose.”

Phillips, which has roughly 1,100 students in grades 9-12, has been active in the Digital Public Library of America. It has already digitized about 4,000 of its titles published prior to 1923.

With all the books already boxed up for the renovation, the school’s decision to expand its CDL project was clear: “There would never be a better time than now,” Barker said. This summer it shipped most of the remaining volumes to be digitized by Internet Archive at its scanning facility in the Philippines.

Sharing the cost of scanning and shipping with Internet Archive was critical to the digitization process happening, said Barker. The books are expected back early in 2020 and will be placed back on library shelves over spring break.

Rather than most books being on display, the renovated Phillips library includes more open space for collaboration. It was last updated in 1987 and was not wired for a world that included the Internet. Renovations began in early 2018 and the newly updated facility opened to students this fall.

Originally designed like a “book fortress,” Barker said the center of the library now has room for students to study together while some books are on shelves around the periphery. Most books are now in the attic and basement where they can be called up to lending.



Michael Barker

“One local benefit of CDL is that students don’t necessarily need to call the book from the attic. With a digital version there is no delay in getting the book,” Barker said.

As Barker awaits the return of the book collection from the Philippines, he is tracking the shipment (which went on two separate ships and was insured). In the meantime, Phillips is preparing to share the news of its vast collection becoming open to students everywhere. Barker is excited to offer the school’s resources openly and said it’s particularly timely as school library budgets are being cut, making it hard for libraries to fulfill their mission.

“The truth of the matter is that some schools don’t have libraries anymore,” Barker said. “If other schools like us got involved in CDL in the same way and shared their copies, many public schools would not have to worry about their students having access to collections in the same way they might be doing now. I encourage others to explore it and jump in. It seems like it can only get stronger the more libraries that join.”



“With the closure of so many high school libraries, this allows us to share the collection we’ve built up over 100 years with all other high schools. I can’t think of any better way the library could contribute its private resources for a public purpose.”

Michael Barker, Director of Academy Research, Phillips Academy



controlddigitallending.org



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